

Pet-Proofing Your Holidays

SAFELY PLACE DECORATIONS

Glass ornaments, tinsel and lights all need to hang beyond your pet's reach. If your cat's a climber, consider using fish line to secure the tree to the ceiling or wall. Keep candles out of reach and in your sight so your pet's paws don't get burned or your home set on fire.



KEEP GREENERY OUT OF REACH

Poinsettias irritate cats' and dogs' mouths and digestive systems. Holly and mistletoe are poisonous, and they might drop berries (the most toxic part of the plant) on the floor even if the plants are out of reach. Try plastic or silk instead of real plants.

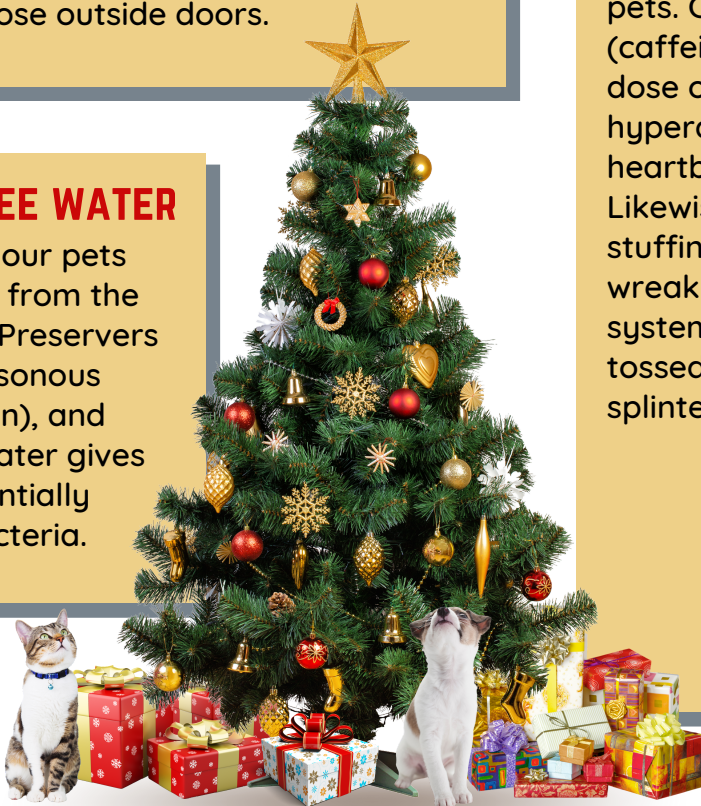


SEPARATE PETS FROM PARTIES

Keep pets in a closed, quiet room during gatherings to protect guests from excited animals and animals from guests who slip them scraps, leave drinks unattended, or forget to close outside doors.

COVER TREE WATER

Do not let your pets drink water from the tree stand. Preservers may be poisonous (even aspirin), and stagnant water gives rise to potentially harmful bacteria.



HIDE THE SNACKS

Do not share holiday treats with your pets. Chocolate contains two stimulants (caffeine and theobromine) and a large dose of fat. That can lead to vomiting, hyperactivity, seizures, irregular heartbeat, and pancreatitis in dogs. Likewise, fatty treats like gravy, stuffing, caramels and eggnog can wreak havoc with a dog's digestive system. Turkey and chicken bones tossed in the trash may end up splintered in your pet's intestines.

